



THE LAMPLIGHTER

Presbyterian Church of West Salem
625 W. Franklin St., P. O. Box 861
West Salem, WI 54669
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Pastor Larry Olson &
Pastor Stephanie Steiner

January 2019

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

We are again preparing to send the Annual Report via email to as many of you as possible. However, if you have not given us your email for the Lamplighter and we can send to you the Annual Report by email, please contact the church to provide that email. If you do not have email access, you can pick-up a hard copy available at church the week before the Annual Meeting, scheduled for Sunday, January 27th. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 786-0910 or email us at preschurchws@gmail.com.

ANNUAL MEETING

Each year we gather together to review where we have been as a congregation and chart our course for the new year and the future. You are encouraged to attend our annual meeting on **Sunday, January 27, 2019** immediately following the 10:15 AM worship service. We hope to see you there!

New Member Class

Sunday, January 20th at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall

For those interested in joining the church or just learning more about membership, the Membership and Evangelism committee is sponsoring a class following worship on January 20th. A light lunch will be provided. Current Session members are encouraged to attend as well. This is a short session taught by our pastors.

Please contact the Pastors or the Membership and Evangelism committee if you're interested.

Is it a book club? Is it a Bible study?

Neither, it's a movie discussion !

The Membership and Evangelism Committee is presenting a movie discussion.



We'll watch "An Interview with God", then discuss the movie's meaning and possible alternative outcomes. This will be a short two evening activity in February 2019, both entertaining and educational.

The movie, with Oscar-nominated David Strathairn, is about an up-and-coming journalist whose faith is challenged when he finds himself interviewing a mysterious man who claims to be God.

Stay tuned for extract dates and times.

November 2018 Financial Summary

Operating Budget

Balance November 1st	\$11,027.34
Receipts	18,028.83
Expenses	(19,412.71)

Ending Balance—November 30th \$9,643.46



Prayer Chain

Helen Harold	786-0856
Sharon Shaw	786-0653
Vickie Holt	786-1659
Sharon Cullmann	797-1732
Elinor Johnston	786-2441
Marilyn Bahr	786-0315
Diana Engel	786-1560
Becky Auna	786-0097

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SESSION:

- Approved 2019 Budget to go to Annual Meeting
- Discussed security issues
- Approved winter activities from Christian Education
- Approved Jean Pearson selling raffle tickets for a quilt—proceeds go to Lung Cancer Research at Gunderson Lutheran

The next
Red Cross Blood Drive
will be
Monday, January 14th
from 12:30-5:30 PM
Call Connie Blunck for
an appointment at
786-0684.



Hats off to:

- our December nursery helpers: Gideon Wolbrink, Dane Bohnsack, Jaycob Brown, Julia Byrnes & Ethan Crusan
- our December acolytes: Ayden & Ava Schuster, Lily Oldenburg, Bradley Baker, Josiah Wolbrink, Ethan & Evan Crusan and Liam & Cameron Lambertson
- our December liturgists: Nancy Olson, Jane Foner, Kevin Arndt & Nick Miller
- our December sound room: Genevieve Haugen, Grant Bohnsack, Kelly Crusan & Tiffani LaJeunesse



Elders

Class of 2019

Shawn McAlister
Mike Siekert
Kristjan Sells
Kevin Aleckson

Class of 2020

Valerie Olson
Carolyn Lindeman
Charles Engel
Kathy Schedin

Class of 2021

Barbara Hopkins
Sherry Bonsall
Becca Bohnsack
Greg Meeuwesen

Deacons

Class of 2019 Kris Seeger, Jean Pearson, Diana Swim, Chris Winther and Helen Harold

Class of 2020 Claudia Olson, Nancy Olson, Jackie Siekert, Rita Thompson and Lill Twining

A Note from Pastor Stephanie:

One of the disadvantages of writing an article for the monthly newsletter is that it throws off a person's inner clock. It means trying to convey certain feelings on paper before you (the writer) have really gotten ready for them in real life. For example, you have to write about Thanksgiving well before Halloween and before the autumn turns its annual corner from bright yellows, oranges and reds, to somber grays and browns. Then you need to write about the extravagant joy of Christmas before you've even had a chance to truly sit with your Thanksgiving thoughts. And today, as I was reminded to write this article for the January Lamplighter, it is the Monday after Thanksgiving - Advent has not even begun, Christmas has not yet been celebrated, and I need to formulate thoughts about something else that has not yet happened - The New Year - 2019!

The Insurance ad that says, "Life comes at you fast," is right on target! As we look back over the days we've been given, or even just the 365 days of 2018, we would have to agree - Life comes at you fast- and something new is always upon us.

One problem with welcoming a new year is that it comes at a time when nothing feels new. The Christmas decorations look ragged and maudlin in January's merciless light. Taking them down is a tiresome task. And Winter hasn't even gotten out of the gate at Christmastime. By New Year's Day, winter's iciest, coldest two and a half months are still ahead of us, with precious few holidays to break up their tedium.

And yet, even amid all the sameness of things, we can sometimes feel the moments passing. Their constant rumble is like a subway train beneath the ground we're standing on. If we stop to listen to the rhythm of our hours and days, if we pay attention to the sometimes-monotonous march of seconds and minutes, we'll catch echoes of their footfalls drawing nearer, stomping past us, receding into the distance. When did that hair go gray on the head of the one you love? When did that wrinkle form on the familiar brow? Time passes, bestowing gifts richly with one hand and stealing them with the other.

In every season of life, there is a new thing that God is doing, if we simply open our hearts and spirits to its unfolding. Whatever time it is in your life, whatever your age or occupation, the voice still calls out to us again, "Follow me." Or, as the God of Isaiah declares, "I am about to do a new thing... Do you not perceive it?" And in the midst of this truly deep midwinter season—I encourage each of us to spend some time thinking about the "new things" that we sense the Spirit doing in our midst. I encourage each of us to sit with these two questions in our hearts: 1. "What new things am I being called to do and be in 2019?" 2. "Are there new things the Spirit is calling the church to explore?"

Wherever 2019 leads us, individually and as a congregation, it is my sheer joy and privilege to be walking the journey beside you!

Happy and Blessed 2019,

Pastor Stephanie

News from Jim & Jodi McGill—Missionaries from Niger:

They are in Niamey, Niger and have just recently completed one year. They are with their 4 younger children and the older two stayed in the States. The nursing school which Jodi went to help set up just got governmental approval so they will be starting to put things in place to start some classes in January. Jim is busy working between Niger and S. Sudan and beginning to drill some wells and work on toilets for girls in primary school.

To get caught up a bit you can read Jim & Jodi's newsletter at: www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/james-and-jodi-mcgill/ or view their current newsletter posted on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall.

PW December 6, 2018—Finger Food Buffet Meeting

On Thursday evening, December 6th, eighteen women and five guests enjoyed a holiday gathering and a wonderful assortment of potluck finger food buffet in the church fellowship hall. Deb Allen and Becky Auna created festive tables and served as hostesses. The PW Purpose was read in unison, the Hunger Offering was collected, followed by a business meeting. The 2019 slate of officers were installed by Vicki Holt. The officers are: Moderator Helen Harold, Vice-Moderator Diana Engel, Treasurer Nelda Manter, Secretary Joyce Garves, and Nominating, Sharon Shaw. A program titled "Gifts for the King" was presented in the Sanctuary by Barb Hopkins, Tiffani LaJeunesse, and Caroline Sells. The next meeting will be February 7th at 9a.m with a potluck brunch . Fleece blankets will be tied and donated to New Horizons.



ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER

Thank you to all who participated in any way in this fun event! Your Membership & Evangelism and Music & Worship Committees worked hard, but with joy and laughter, to provide this event. With the snow and bad weather, we were afraid we wouldn't have many participants. We were pleasantly surprised and encouraged by all of you that came to enjoy tacos, desserts and shopping. Thanks to all who donated the goods for selling and bidding! We were able to make a profit of \$2025 which was donated to the church's operating budget. Greg and the Driftless River Band certainly added to the festivities. It is fun to hear the laughter and fellowship that takes place at this event. THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

HANGING AND "UNHANGING" OF THE GREENS

Our church is dressed in its Holiday finest for the Advent Season. This was accomplished on November 25th by an enthusiastic group of volunteers. This is certainly a great time for some intergenerational activity. There are many tasks to be performed so we needed people to carry up the decorations, check the lights, assemble and decorate the trees, hang the wreaths, do the general decorating and clean up.

Now on January 6th, immediately after church, we will need a crew to help take the decorations down and put everything back downstairs. If you are able to lend a hand, it would be greatly appreciated. Thanks for all you contribute to our church family.



Movie Night - A Wrinkle in Time

Join us for movie night on January 18th at 6:00 pm.

Pizza at 6:00 - free will donation

Movie at 6:30 - rated PG, runs 1 hour and 49 minutes, *A Wrinkle in Time*

After the disappearance of her scientist father, three peculiar beings send Meg, her brother,

and her friend to space in order to find him.

Enjoy a little laugh!

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.

~ George Burns

JANUARY CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

2nd—5:00 Class in Bangor

9th—5:00 Class in West Salem

16th—5:00 Class in West Salem

23rd—5:00 Community Dinner

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

HEAD USHER: Charlie Evans **FELLOWSHIP (Serve/Clean-up):** Membership & Evangelism Committee

LITURGIST & GREETER

6—Helen Harold
13—Tracey Rogers
20—Kathy Schedin
27—Howard Garves

NURSERY CARE

6—Aly Cvikota
13—Brigitta Haugen
20—Willis Jones
27—Tanner Jones

GREETERS (Fellowship Hall Doors)

6—Shawn & Bethany McAlister
13—Wilbert & Jessica Steinborn
20—Alan Schedin
27—Joyce Garves

ACOYLTES

6—Lily Oldenburg & Evelyn Raymer
13—Dax Pfaff & Xander Wuensch
20—Ayden & Ava Schuster
27—Kendall Stephenson & Jolie Meyers

SOUND ROOM TECHNICIANS

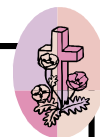
6—Grant Bohnsack
13—Kelly Crusan
20—Genevieve Haugen
27—Genevieve Haugen



1—Fred Dodd, Larry Olson
2—Martha Burdick
3—Howard Garves, Sandra Schmidt
4—Rebecca Auna, Patricia Ruetten, Lucille Raymer
5—Leeann Krall, Kenneth Hauser, Shanna Roe
7—Cindy Ashland, Mark Gullickson, Augustine Norman
8—Dave Bohnsack
9—Terry Miller, Ernest Tourville, Debbie Tourville
10—Glenda Koeneke, Rita Loging, Braxton Sprain, Garrett Byrnes, Remlee Miller
14—Sharon Holven, Alexandra Galbraith, Emily Pickar
15—Cecilia Lambertson
16—Rose Wolbrink, Kent Buehrle
18—Rebecca Byrnes

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to:

...Schuster family on the death of Kyle's dad, Jim, on November 21st.



Congratulations to :



*Mark & Tatiana Wolf on the baptism of Bianca Evelyn Jae on December 9th!

*Robert & Andrea Tweed on the baptism of Alannah Grace on December 16th!



*Clark Anderson & Jordan Blaken who were married on December 8th!



*Susan Hicks on the birth of a new granddaughter, Journey Indahl, on November 27!

19—Katelyn Carlson, Kaitlin Thornton, Matthew Schwier, Maureen Longcor, Michael Siekert
20—Brian Lusk, Dorothy Schmaltz, Patrick Zalewski
21—Brian Baker, Elgin Brown, Brooklyn Haverly-Ghelfi
22—Michelle Lusk, Luke Noel
23—Bradley Baker
25—Dixie Fladhammer, Aubrynn Kreibich, Jean Pearson, Dustin Wehrs
26—Ethan Sells
27—Kevin Arndt, Nancy Olson
28—Doris Carlson, Edward Lusk, Alexis Shaw
29—Delores Torgerson
30—Diane Rogala, William Silbaugh
31—James Beebe, Diana Meeuwesen

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**625 West Franklin Street
PO Box 861
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Quick Look Ahead:



- Installation/Ordination of Elders and Deacons—
Sunday, January 13th
- Deacon Meeting—immediately following Worship—January
13th
- Red Cross Blood Drive—Monday, January 14th
- Movie Night—Friday, January 18th
- New Member Class—Sunday, January 20th at 11:30 AM

The Lamplighter is published monthly by the Presbyterian Church of West Salem to inform church members and friends about the events, programs, and mission of the congregation. Information for **The Lamplighter** is to be submitted to the church office **by the 15th day of each month.**

Please inform the church office of any change in your address.